

Message Text

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ACTION SS-20

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 SPC-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10

RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 INT-08

EUR-25 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 INRE-00 NEA-10 CCO-00 L-03 H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8759

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 16188

DEPT PASS TO SECRETARY

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, ENRG

SUBJ: INITIAL REACTION TO KISSINGER ENERGY PROPOSAL

1. JAPANESE MEDIA ALL REPORTED SECRETARY KISSINGER PILGRIM SOCIETY SPEECH IN LONDON AS TOP NEWS STORY EVENING DECEMBER 13. FACTUAL ARTICLES CONCENTRATED ON PROPOSAL TO FORM US-JAPAN-EUROPE ENERGY ACTION GROUP TO DEAL WITH WORLD-WIDE ENERGY CRISIS IN FACE OF PRESSURES EXERTED BY OIL PRODUCERS. IN REPORTING SECRETARY'S BROAD PROPOSAL, MANY NEWS ARTICLES STRESSED URGENCY OF SITUATION BY QUOTING HIS HOPE THAT FIRST STAGE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW POLICY WOULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN THREE MONTHS.

2. CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY SUSUMU NIKAI DO EXPRESSED INITIAL PUBLIC GOJ REACTION TO PRESS SAME EVENING, WHICH REPORTED BY ALL PAPERS MORNING DECEMBER 13. NIKAI DO STATED THAT
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EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCES IS SERIOUS PROBLEM FACING NOT

ONLY JAPAN BUT OTHER NATIONS AND MODERN SOCIETY AS A WHOLE NOTING THAT SOME POINTS OF KISSINGER PLAN REQUIRE FURTHER CLARIFICATION, NIKAIDO SAID THAT GOJ WOULD STUDY IT CAREFULLY FROM ALL ASPECTS. HE ASSUMED THAT OTHER NATIONS WOULD EXPRESS REACTIONS, AND EXPLAINED THAT GOJ SPECIAL ENVOY TAKEO MIKI IS NOW ENGAGED IN EXPLAINING JAPAN'S MIDDLE EAST POLICY TO ARAB STATES. THEREFORE, NIKAIDO CONCLUDED, EVEN IF CALLED UPON TO DO SO NOW, JAPAN COULD NOT IMMEDIATELY EXPRESS APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL.

3. UNNAMED FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES WERE ALSO REPORTED BY PRESS TO HAVE SAID THAT PROPOSAL NEEDS FURTHER CLARIFICATION, AND THAT JAPAN WOULD STUDY REACTION EXPRESSED IN EC SUMMIT MEETING AT BRUSSELS THIS WEEKEND, AS WELL AS REACTION OF ARAB OIL PRODUCERS. SOME FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES VIEWED PROPOSAL AS FURTHER STEP TOWARD POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGREEMENT INCLUDING BOTH CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS OF OIL. BUT VOICED SPECULATION THAT IT MAY BE INTENDED TO PREVENT CONSUMERS FROM COMPETING FOR ARAB OIL AT SAME TIME IT APPLIES PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURE ON ARAB OIL EXPORTERS.

4. FOMIN MASAYOSHI OHIRA DECEMBER 14 STATED THAT SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL FOR FORMATION OF ENERGY ACTION GROUP REQUIRES IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. PRESS REPORTED OHIRA VIEW THAT QTE THERE NO DOUBT THAT JAPAN MUST STUDY PROPOSAL IN POSITIVE MANNER UNQTE. OHIRA ALSO NOTED THAT NUMBER OF POINTS IN PROPOSAL REMAIN TO BE CLARIFIED.

5. FOLLOWING LUNCHEON SPEECH DECEMBER 14 ON OIL CRISIS AND GOJ COUNTERMEASURES, MITI VICE MINISTER EIMEI YAMASHITA SAID THAT AS A LONG RUN PROPOSAL KISSINGER PLAN MOST WELCOME. YAMASHITA POINTED OUT THAT JAPAN HAD ALREADY STARTED LOOKING FOR ALTERNATIVES TO OIL, IN PARTICULAR UNDER SUNSHINE PROJECT. HOWEVER, HE SAID, THIS WILL NOT HELP SOLVE THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM.
SHOESMITH

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED SECRETARY.

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